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PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN
MAYORS, NOVEMBER 12-14, 1914

REMARKS AT RECEPTION THURSDAY EVENING,
NOVEMBER TWELFTH

MR. EDWARD B. SMITH, of Edward B. Smith & Company, Philadelphia:

Ladies and Gentlemen: His Excellency, the Governor of Pennsylvania, has expressed his sincere regret that an official engagement prevents his being here to welcome you, but we have with us tonight a man whom Pennsylvania delights to honor. He has been mayor of Philadelphia and governor of Pennsylvania; he has the confidence, affection and esteem of all our citizens regardless of party. Whenever there is need of a man of force, of the highest integrity and ability, and of unswerving loyalty to the highest standards, our thought turns to the Hon. Edwin S. Stuart, one time mayor of Philadelphia; one time governor of Pennsylvania. I wish to present to you the Hon. Edwin S. Stuart.

HON. EDWIN S. STUART, formerly Governor of Pennsylvania:

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen: I don't know just exactly what I am to do, but my friend, Mayor Blankenburg, said he wanted me to come here tonight and say a word of welcome to the visiting mayors, their ladies and the guests here tonight. I think that is hardly necessary because Philadelphia always welcomes anybody that comes here for the uplift, the advancement and the improvement of this or any other community.

This conference of American mayors is bound to be a great thing, gratifying not only to our municipality, but to all the other municipalities.

I am not one of those who believe that we are going backward in municipal government, as a general rule. I believe that municipal government, like everything else, is going forward. I believe municipal government was better twenty years ago than it was forty years ago; I believe municipal government is better today

than it was twenty years ago, and I believe that it will be better twenty years from now than it is today.

As the chairman has stated, I have had the honor of being mayor of Philadelphia, and I know that my experience in a city of 1,000,000 was just exactly the same as the experience of the mayor of a city of 5,000. They all have their responsibilities, and they all have somebody that can tell them better how to run things than they know themselves. That has always been so and always will be so. And I am satisfied in the feeling that I have that we tend to the betterment of municipalities all over our land, and on behalf of the reception committee, I cannot help extending to you a most cordial welcome, as I know Governor Tener would do if he were here.

I bid you welcome to Philadelphia and trust your remembrance and recollection of Philadelphia may be as pleasant to you as I am satisfied our remembrance of you will be, as long as we live.

HON. RUDOLPH BLANKENBURG, Mayor of Philadelphia:

Ladies and Gentlemen: We have come together this evening to get acquainted with each other; to have a good time; and to enjoy ourselves in the lighter vein. This is a preliminary to the important work that has caused this gathering of American mayors to meet in convention for the discussion of serious subjects that affect the well-being of all municipalities, large or small. This informal reception is tendered by the committee to the mayors, the delegates, their friends and their ladies who have honored us with their presence and it should not be marred by a lengthy address on my part, but a few words of welcome will be in order. Let me extend to you, the chief magistrates of the cities of our land, a most hearty and sincere welcome to the City of Brotherly Love. You represent all parts of our great republic and it is an especial pleasure to see in this distinguished company representatives of several important cities of Canada, our esteemed neighbors to the north of us.

This is an auspicious occasion and the first in the history of our country, I believe, where the executives of municipalities, large and small, have congregated in great numbers to discuss questions that affect the interest of all our citizens—the urban population directly and the rural, indirectly. Let me premise here, on the eve of the real work of the convention, that the idea of showing an-

tagonism towards public service corporations, that its object is to combat them in the legitimate pursuit of their business, is quite erroneous.

We have gathered for the purpose of devising ways and means by which we can live together in peace and amity. If we are wrong, let it be shown where we are wrong and we shall gladly concede it: if they are wrong, on the other hand, they should be willing to admit it and mend their ways. If they do not, they will have to bear the consequences through united action of hitherto disunited forces. How the false impression has gone abroad that this meeting of American mayors means the inauguration of a contest against all public service corporations, I do not know. There is absolutely no thought in our minds of any unwise onslaught upon public service corporations. While they are often called an evil, though a necessary one, I think they are a blessing if they are properly managed and regulated.

Philadelphia, you will agree with me, is the place of all American cities where an inaugural convention of this character should be held. I am pretty safe in this assertion because a majority, or at least a large number, of the audience before me are Philadelphians, and they will support me in this claim. Philadelphia occupies a memorable place in the history of our country. We have many places of interest, and the students of the inception and life of our republic, naturally give the Quaker City—with due apologies to Boston and Bunker Hill—first place as the birthplace of the republic. Many of you who have come from a distance may never have visited Independence Hall or seen the Liberty Bell. To me, these two emblems of the birth of the republic are so sacred that I never pass the one nor look upon the other without reverently uncovering my head.

I extend to you, one and all, a most cordial welcome and hand you the keys of the city with the wish that, when you leave, you will carry with you a remembrance of Philadelphia that will be pleasant as long as you live. May what we accomplish during this conference redound to the credit and benefit, not only of our own municipality, but of all the municipalities of our broad land.

We are at peace while the nations of Europe are engaged in the most deplorable war of all history. We are at peace because we have no entangling alliances with foreign countries, a position Wash-

ington, in his immortal Farewell Address so wisely counselled to maintain. Owing to this fact, we have friendly relations and are on good terms with all the warring nations, and when the time for negotiation of peace shall come, it will be the proud privilege of the United States to act as the leading arbitrator between the countries at war. Such is the position of our country. May a wise Providence forever maintain and improve it, at home and abroad. Meetings and conferences of the executives of our municipalities will do their part to promote amity and good fellowship at home; to lessen friction; and to establish justice and fair dealing between the cities and public service corporations.

With renewed hearty welcome to the City of Brotherly Love, I ask you all to hold in friendly memory the city of your temporary sojourn, the city we feel justly entitled to call "The Mother City of the Republic."

HON. H. C. HOCKEN, Mayor of Toronto, Canada:

Your Excellency, Your Honor, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is a gratifying thing as a citizen of Canada to share in the cordial welcome which His Honor the Mayor, has extended to us here. It is a compliment to Canadians to be invited to this Conference of American Mayors and is proof of the depth of mind of Mayor Blankenburg.

We count Toronto as among the American cities. While it is not under the same flag, we feel that there is only one people on the North American Continent, all animated by the same democratic ideals. The people of both countries are working out democratic institutions in their own way. While our systems are somewhat different, our purpose is the same and the relation which has existed for the past one hundred years between Canada and this country has strengthened the neighborly spirit that should prevail among people of common origin. This long period of amity proves what His Honor the Mayor has said, that the United States desires to deal justly with other nations.

We celebrated in the city of Toronto this year, the anniversary of one hundred years of peace between Canada and the United States. During all that period we have had a boundary of 4,000 miles between us without a gun placed anywhere. It should have been a lesson to the nations of Europe, but it is sometimes difficult

for a people or for a nation to learn lessons until the time for their application has passed. Sometimes they learn through great suffering.

I want to give the principal American municipalities credit for what they have contributed to the welfare of our Canadian cities. We in the city of Toronto have during the past few years tried to humanize the municipal government. We have tried to establish those services for the people which would best serve their human needs—services which did not exist a few years ago—and so this year the city of Toronto will spend about a mill and a half of the tax rate—about \$750,000—for the preservation of the health of the people; for the protection of womanhood, and other equally human services. We have taken our playground movement from your city of New York; we have copied our methods of dealing with criminals—minor offenders and confirmed drunkards and that class of delinquents—from the city of Cleveland; we have copied also from Cleveland their method of dealing with indigent old folks. In our institutions today, men and women have lived together for fifty years and are indigent, they are put into the institution where the old men are placed on one side of the building and the old women on the other side. We are going to stop that. We are going to give them a place where they can spend the rest of their days together.

We have adopted from the city of Atlanta a plan that we are going to put into effect for the improvement of our sewage system. We have secured from Washington our idea of a filtration plant. And so we have come over to the United States cities from time to time looking for the best methods of carrying on our municipal services. For the past ten days we have had our principal accountants in Philadelphia studying the methods in operation in your treasury department, which we are going to apply to our own city of Toronto.

I am glad, Mr. Mayor, and Ladies and Gentlemen, to have this opportunity to give credit to the American cities which are working our municipal institutions and improving them all the time, for all that we have received from them. I am not sure whether the city of Toronto will be able to give you anything in return, but if we can we shall be pleased to do so.

Our idea is to make life worth living to the people of our city, and our taxes, or at least a considerable proportion of them, are spent in increasing the comforts, the conveniences and the happi-

ness of our citizens. We have found that when we do that they are satisfied.

I entirely agree with His Honor the Mayor, that there should not be any conflict, certainly not any acrimonious conflict, between a municipality and the public utilities corporations. But we have found in the city of Toronto that some public utilities corporations are very hard to deal with. We have about made up our minds to have the public utilities municipally owned and operated for the people and by the people. Whether that would be possible elsewhere is a matter for each particular city to decide. But in the city of Toronto we have made some advance in that direction.

Let me assure you, Sir, that, throughout the Dominion of Canada, there is only one feeling for the American cities and for American citizens. Our boys come over here and marry your girls. Your boys come over to us and marry our girls. Our business relations with New York are closer than they are with Montreal; and the way our social relations are increasing is as surprising as it is gratifying.

During the past few weeks we have had a most striking illustration of the affection that the American residents in Canada feel toward the Canadian city of Toronto. We raised a patriotic fund to support the wives and dependents of the men who have gone to fight the battles of the Empire in France. We raised \$1,000,000, \$100,000 of which was contributed by American citizens who are residents of the city of Toronto. A hundred thousand dollars is a considerable sum for such a purpose. But the value that we put upon the sentiment that was back of the \$100,000 is a thousand times greater than the money it represents. We know that the Americans are satisfied with the treatment that they have had in our cities, and it shows that they have sympathy with us in this tremendous war. I know that I speak for all Canadian citizens when I say that these happy relations which have existed so long will continue to exist between the two nations which lie side by side, on this great North American continent.